

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended.) An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between a liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct; ~~and~~

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel; and

an elongated member;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit a the elongated member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end and a proximal end of the indicator device.

2. (Cancelled.)

3. (Previously presented.) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duct opens into the chamber via an aperture having a spill-over edge, the aperture being located at a level above a bottom surface of the blood accommodating chamber, whereby return flow of blood back into the duct is prevented.

4. (Previously presented.) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the blood accommodating chamber is located in the body, and wherein the body further comprises the insertion tube extending distally of the body.

5. (Previously presented.) The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the inlet opening is located on a side of the insertion tube.

6. (Previously presented.) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duct extends vertically to an aperture opening into the blood accommodating chamber.

7. (Previously presented.) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duct extends horizontally above the blood accommodating chamber to an aperture opening into the blood accommodating chamber.

8. (Original.) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the duct exhibits a varying cross-section over its length.

9. (Previously presented.) An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body, the body comprising

a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber at a proximal end;

a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a liquid inlet opening in fluid communication with the duct; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

wherein the duct exhibits a varying cross-section over its length;

wherein the duct becomes narrower in the direction towards the blood accommodating chamber.

10. (Currently amended.) ~~The device as claimed in claim 8,~~ An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between a liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit a member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end and a proximal end of the indicator device;

wherein the duct widens in the direction towards the blood accommodating chamber.

11. (Currently amended.) ~~The device as claimed in claim 8,~~ An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between a liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit a member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end and a proximal end of the indicator device;

wherein the duct first becomes narrow and then widens.

12. (Currently amended.) ~~The device as claimed in claim 8;~~ An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between a liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit a member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end and a proximal end of the indicator device;

wherein the duct exhibits a varying cross-section over its length and

wherein the cross-section varies within the window.

13. (Currently amended.) ~~The device as claimed in claim 1;~~ An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between a liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit a member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end and a proximal end of the indicator device; and

wherein the duct is helically shaped.

14. (Currently amended.) ~~The device as claimed in claim 3,~~ An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body comprising a passage passing through the body, the body further comprising a duct extending in the body and having a hemostatically sealed blood accommodating chamber;

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between a liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit a member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end and a proximal end of the indicator device;

wherein the blood accommodating chamber and the duct are dimensioned such that a counter-pressure therein when blood enters will cause a blood meniscus at a lowest possible systolic pressure to be located within the window.

15. (Previously presented.) An indicator device for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

a body, the body comprising

a duct extending in the body and having a blood accommodating chamber at a hemostatically sealed proximal end;

a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a liquid inlet opening in fluid communication with the duct; and

a window comprising an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel;

wherein the duct opens into the chamber via an aperture having a spill-over edge, the aperture being located at a level above a bottom surface of the blood accommodating chamber, whereby return flow of blood back into the duct is prevented;

wherein the blood accommodating chamber and the duct are dimensioned such that a counter-pressure therein when blood enters will cause a blood meniscus at a lowest possible systolic pressure to be located within the window;

wherein the blood accommodating chamber and the duct are dimensioned such that a counter-pressure therein when blood enters will cause a blood meniscus at a lowest possible systolic pressure to be located approximately at the spill-over edge.

16. (Original.) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein the meniscus is essentially perpendicular with respect to a direction of flow in the duct.

17 to 19. (Cancelled.)

20. (Currently amended) A method for visually indicating a pressure of blood inside a blood vessel, comprising:

(1) providing an indicator device comprising

a body, the body comprising a passage passing through the body and a duct extending in the body and having a blood accommodating chamber,

an insertion tube comprising a distal end portion adapted to be positioned inside the blood vessel and comprising a fluid communication pathway between a liquid inlet opening near a distal end of the insertion tube and the duct, and

a window in the form of an at least semi-transparent section configured to enable visual observation of blood entering into the duct via the inlet opening when the inlet opening is located inside the blood vessel,

an elongated member,

and wherein the passage and the fluid communication pathway are adapted to permit a the elongated member to be threaded in a substantially straight path there through between a distal end and a proximal end of the indicator device;

(2) positioning said distal end portion inside the blood vessel; and

(3) indicating said pressure.

21. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises a dilator.

22. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises a guide rod.

23. (New) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongated member comprises a guide wire.